(c) and (d) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the appropriate Governments fix minimum wages in respect of the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction and oversee their implementation. They have requested to ensure that minimum wages fixed by them are not below the national minimum wage of Rs. 66/- per day *w.e.f.* 1.2.2004.

Number of unemployed persons

446. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest number of unemployed persons as per the record of enrolment in the employment exchange registers in the country. State-wise;

(b) the categorical status of the unemployed youths on the basis of qualifications, both academic and professional;

(c) the growth of unemployment from the year 2000-01 to the 31st March, 2004; and

(d) the job opportunities Government desire to explore?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) State-wise number of Job-seeker, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31st March 2004 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below)

(b) Education level-wise distribution of Job-seekers as on 31st December 2002 (letest availbale) is given in Statement-II (*See below*)

(c) No. of Job-seekers on the Live Register during the period 2001-2004 is given below:

Year as on 31st March	No. of Job-seekers in thousands
2001	41231.5
2002	41595.6
2003	40746.4
2004	40871.1

(d) Government is targeting creation of 5 crore employment opportunities over the Tenth Plan period. This will help Job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchanges also.

Statement-I

No. of Job-seekers on the live register of Employment Exchanges as on 31.3.2004

Sl.No	State/Union Territories	Number (in thousands)
.1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2504.0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	23.8
3.	Assam	1578.0
4.	Bihar	1685.3
5.	Chhattisgarh	843.2
6.	Delhi	1039.2
7.	Goa	104.0
8.	Gujarat	963.2
9.	Haryana	803.6
10.	Himachal Pradesh	895.5
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	112.3
12.	Jharkhand	1473.2
13.	Karnataka	1722.6
14.	Kerala	3629.0
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1981.0
16.	Maharashtra	4204.1
17.	Manipur	448.8
18.	Meghalaya	35.4
19.	Mizoram	36.4
20.	Nagaland	44.3
21.	Orissa	737.7
22.	Punjab	482.0
23.	Rajasthan	855.2

1	2	3
24.	Sikkim*	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	4986.9
26.	Tripura	367.1
27.	Uttaranchal	329.9
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1933.5
29.	West Bengal	6768.8
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	34.6
31.	Chandigarh	66.4
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6.1
33.	Daman and Diu	9.4
34.	Lakshadweep	10.6
35.	Pondicherry	156.3
	TOTAL:	40871.1

* No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

Figure may not tally due to rounding off.

Statement-II

No. of educated jobseekers (10th Class Passed and above) on the live register of Employment Exchanges as on 31.12.2002 classified by educational levels

Sl. No.	Educational Level	Number (in thousands)
1	2	3
1.	10th Class passed	16841.7
2.	10th +2 passed	7715.5
3.	Graduates (including Post Graduates Total)	5110.7
3 A.	Professional Graduates including Post Graduates included in Item 3	—

1	2	3
I.	Science	957.2
II.	Engineering	210.2
III.	Medicine	46.2
IV.	Veterinary	6.7
V.	Agriculture	35.0
VI.	Law	20.6
	GRAND TOTAL 1+2+3	29667.9

Recruitment of ex-service personnel by private security agencies

447. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of ex-servicemen including retired Defence Officials were recruited by Private Security agencies for deployment in Iraq and a few casualities among them have taken place;

(b) if so, the number of such ex-servicemen sent to Iraq and how many of them were actually killed there; and

(c) Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such data is maintained.

(c) Several measures have been taken which include, *inter-alia*, serving of show-cause notices to registered recruiting agents who reportedly violated Government instructions regarding recruitment for deployment in Iraq, FIRs have been filed against those private agencies who are not registered recruiting agents and foreign companies indulging in diversion of Indian workers from Kuwait and Jordan to Iraq have been blacklisted.

Recruitment of ex-servicemen for Iraq by private agencies

448. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of Indian ex-servicemen are being recruited by private agencies for posting in Iraq;